THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) M/s. Frederic R. Harris was appointed by Netherlands Government as a consultant to make a locational advantage study for a container transhipment terminal, Cochin versus Tuticorin. In their draft report submitted to the Netherlands Embassy, the consultants have favoured Cochin as compared to Tuticorin primarily on the basis of lower development and maintenance costs and the potential for superior overland connections to the market.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. The costs estimated by consultants are :

Cochin		
Willingdon Island	:	Rs. 1706 crores
Vallarpadam Island	:	Rs. 2271 crores
Tuticorin		
Inner Harbour	:	Rs. 2491 crores
Outer Harbour	:	Rs. 3814 crores

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Rashtriya Uchchpath ke Nirman Mein Ghapla

2435. SHRI LALIT ORAON : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Rashtriya uchchpath ke nirman mein bhi das crore ka ghapla" appearing in Hindi daily 'Aaj' (Varanasi), dated October 27, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether the Bihar Government has also admitted the scam of nine crore; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government to check such recurrence in future?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). The requisite information is being collected from the State Government of Bihar.

Promotion of Ayurvedic Doctors

2436. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doctors working in Ayurvedic Hospitals have generally less chances of promotions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the rules of promotions in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Sir. Recruitment in Ayurvedic System in CGHS/CGHS Hospital at the level of Medical Officer (Ay.) in the pay scale of Rs. 2200-4000 is 100% by direct recruitment through UPSC. Medical Officer (Ay.) with 4 years regular service in the grade are eligible for promotion to the post of Senior Medical Officer (Ay.) in the pay scale of Rs. 3000-4500 on seniority cum-fitness basis. The promotion is vacancy based.

The eligibility for promotion to the post of Chief Medical Officer (Ay.) in the pay scale of Rs. 3700-5000 is, SMO (Ay.) with 5 years regular service in the grade failing which 9 years combined regular service in the grade of S.M.O. (Ay.) and M.O. (Ay.) out of which 2 years regular service in the grade of S.M.O. (Ay.) on seniority cum-fitness basis. The promotion is vacancy based.

As per Recruitment Rules the posts of Adviser (Ay.)/ Medical Superintendent Ayurvedic Hospital are required to be filled by promotion failing which by transfer on deputation. For promotion, CMO (Ay.) with 8 years regular service in the grade failing which Chief Medical Officer (Ay.) with 13 years combined regular service in the grade of C.M.O. (Ay.)/S.M.O. (Ay.) out of which 4 years regular service should be in the grade of Chief Medical Officer (Ay.) are eligible to be considered. Provided that the existing Deputy Adviser directly recruited under earlier recruitment rules shall also be considered for promotion on seniority-cum-merit basis. However in comparison, doctors of allopathic system get time bound promotion from the level Medical Officer to Senior Medical Officer after puting in 4 years regular service in the grade of Medical Officer and from Senior Medical Officer to Chief Medical Officer after 6 years regular service in the grade of Senior Medical Officer. These promotions are time bound and without linkage to the availability of vacancies. Promotion beyond the grade of CMO are vecancy based and are filled up by selection method.

[English]

Twenty Years Passport

2437. SHRI RAM NAIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government have announced a new policy to issue passport for twenty years at a time, recently;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the response received from the public thereto;

(c) the names of countries which issue passport for twenty years at a time;